

Room 1 E 821  
Pentagon

20 July 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

X1 SUBJECT: Middle East Developments

1. The Middle East Ad Hoc Working Group met in the National Indications Center conference room at 1330, 6 July 1970. Based on a discussion of selected topics, the Working Group considered the following comments appropriate.

2. Soviet Participation in Air Defense of the UAR. In addition to new SA-2 sites in a north-south axis west of Ismailia, three SA-3 sites (one occupied) have been confirmed approximately 25 nm west of Fu'ad. Although there is firm evidence of MIG-21s at Al Qatamiyah airfield on 2 July, there is some question as to whether these aircraft were in fact Soviet-manned, as the Israelis claim, and whether this represents a forward deployment of aircraft or only familiarization flights to this airfield. A review of Soviet fighter activity indicates the Soviets have conducted defensive fighter patrols in reaction to Israeli penetrations of UAR air space, but no definite pattern has been established. The Soviets have thus far not attempted to shoot down Israeli aircraft (in aerial combat), suggesting they may not do so unless the Israelis penetrate a certain, as yet undefined, line.

